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THE KH. COLLECTION OF BABYLONIAN ANTIQUITIES BELONGING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

BY ROBERT FRANCIS HARPER, PH. D.

In the October number of *HEBRAICA* (1888), a short description was given of the so-called J. S. (Joseph Shemtob) collection of antiquities, which was purchased in London, on July 21st, 1888, for the University of Pennsylvania. It may be of interest to add a few notes on the Kh. collection, purchased, on August 15th, 1888, for the same university.

From their contents, these two, together with the H collection purchased later and not yet on exhibition—must be regarded as one. While each has gathered up some material not properly belonging to it, the greater portion of all the tablets dates back to what may be called the Hammurabi period. They are, for the most part, contracts and case tablets. In the Kh. collection I have counted one from Hammurabi, six from his son Samsu-iluna, thirty-six from Ammi-satana and seventeen from Ammi-zaduga. In this collection there are none belonging to Samsu-satana. Among those marked J. S., there are two fine, large tablets of Hammurabi, viz., Nos. 19 and 20, the former a contract, and the latter a juridical decision. These two are in an almost perfect state of preservation. Six belong to Samsu-iluna, thirteen to Ammi-satana. Taken together there are forty-nine from Ammi-satana and only twenty-three from Ammi-zaduga.

In the *Journal Asiatique*, XI., 3, 1888, Mons. Henri Pognon, under the title "Découverte de contrats de l'époque de la première dynastie de babylone," discusses the contract tablets of the Hammurabi dynasty, especially their relative number and the etymology of the names of the kings. The tablets mentioned by M. Pognon were exhibited to him in Baghdad, and they belong to the same class as those of J. S. and Kh.* I have good reasons for believing that they are the tablets mentioned above as belonging to the H collection. He writes that among the tablets of this period, those of Hammurabi are by far the fewest in number, and those of Ammi-zaduga, the greatest. In regard to the J. S. and Kh. collections, this statement does not hold good, as can be seen from the above figures. Those of Ammi-satana, and not those of Ammi-zaduga, are the most numerous. However, in the case of those marked H., Pognon's general statement is correct. I was surprised to find that almost every tablet examined belonged to Ammi-zaduga.

* In regard to the so-called library of Nebuchadnezzar, mentioned by Pognon as having been found in *Jumjuma*, see R. F. Harper in *ZA.*, April, 1889.—Ed.

One of the most interesting things connected with these collections was the discovery of a king hitherto unknown. The reading of the name puzzled me for a long time. It was read in two or three different ways by two or three different Assyriologists, to whom I had shown these pieces. At last, on J. S., 41, with the aid of Mr. Pinches, I read A-bi-e-šu-'. On J. S., Nos. 42 and 43, the name is written quite plainly in the same way. Cf. also J. S., 142, an archaic contract from the same king. In the Kh. collection, I found two tablets of Abešu', viz., No. 19, "lists of amounts," and No. 198, a "case-tablet of Abešu'." Among the H tablets, there are three or four Abešu' contracts. This king undoubtedly belongs to the Hammurabi dynasty and is to be identified with Ebišu, the son of Samsu-iluna.* Mr. Pinches informed me that no tablets belonging to this king have as yet been found among the large number of contracts in the British Museum.

Among the Kh. tablets, there are also several bilingual hymns, semitic hymns, incantations, omens, prayers, and four or five letters. No. 2 is a letter; No. 4, a bilingual list; No. 7, mythological lists, a Babylonian duplicate of II R. 64; No. 12, an address to Marduk; No. 22, a bilingual hymn, etc., etc. Contracts of Darius, Xerxes and Artaxerxes are also found. There are one or two large mathematical tablets, and two or three syllabaries, the exact value of which I did not have time to learn.

The J. S. and Kh. collections contain in all over 1000 tablets. About 250 of these are in a good state of preservation and another 250 in a fairly good condition. Over 400 have been placed in glass boxes and are now on exhibition. The recently acquired H collection contains 632 tablets and 117 seal cylinders. Although most of the tablets are contracts, and belong to an early period, there are a great many of later date and of a different class.

BAGHDAD, January 19th, 1889.

* Cf. R. F. Harper's Brief an C. Bezold in *Zeitschrift fuer die Assyriologie*, April, 1889.—ED.